

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION**  
**IRRIGATION LAND LEVELING**  
(acre)  
**CODE 464**

**SCOPE**

This specification covers leveling of irrigation land. Construction shall comply with the construction plans and these specifications.

**Site Preparation.** The land to be leveled shall be cleared of brush, crop residue, trash, and vegetative material that can materially reduce the effectiveness of leveling operations.

**Borrow Location.** Soil for leveling operations shall be obtained from the designated cut areas in the field or from other designated borrow areas as specified in the plan.

**Leveling Operations.** The land shall be leveled to the designed grade or grades. Fills of more than 6 inches (152 mm) shall be built up by spreading the soil in successive layers. Leveling operations shall not be performed under soil moisture conditions that will, result in excessive damage to soil structure.

In cut areas, when highly permeable or otherwise unsuitable subsoil conditions are encountered, the cuts shall be overexcavated and the topsoil replaced. In the fill areas, if specified, the topsoil will be stripped, the fills partly made and the topsoil replaced.

Variations from the approved elevations at each station shall not exceed 0.1 feet. Reverse grades in the direction of irrigation shall not be permitted. A grade check shall be made before the stakes are removed, before the leveling equipment leaves the field, and before the field is ripped, chiseled, disked or plowed. Any changes in the drawings or grades shall be approved by the Engineer.

After cuts and fills are completed, the surface shall be smoothed to remove minor irregularities.

**Finished Grade.** All leveling work shall be finished according to the design and to the tolerances specified. The completed job shall be workmanlike and present a good appearance.

**BASIS OF ACCEPTANCE.** The acceptability of this practice shall be determined by inspections to insure compliance with all the provisions of this specification and to the drawings.

**WORKMANSHIP.** All construction shall be performed in a workmanlike manner, and the job site shall have a neat appearance when finished.

All disturbed areas not graveled or paved will be vegetated to control erosion.

## **CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS**

Construction operations shall be carried out in such a manner and sequence that erosion and air and water pollution are minimized and held within legal limits.

The owner, operator, contractor or other persons will conduct all work and operations in accordance with proper safety codes for the type of construction being performed with due regards to the safety of all persons and property.

## **SAFETY**

Landowners or operators, sponsoring organizations, and contractors shall be liable for damage to utilities and damage resulting from disruption of service caused by construction activities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service makes no representation on the existence or non-existence of any utilities. Absence of utilities on the drawings is not assurance that no utilities are present at the site.

It is the responsibility of the landowner or operator to determine if there are buried or overhead utilities in the vicinity of the proposed work. They should take proper procedures to insure that the utilities shall not be jeopardized and that equipment operators and others will not be injured during construction operations.